

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /193 W

----- 110047

R 301130Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4429

INFO AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, FAO, UNDP, EEC, BE, BY

SUBJECT: GRB REQUESTS FOOD ASSISTANCE

REF: BUJUMBURA 510

1. REFTEL REPORTED GRB FEARS OF A FOOD SHORTAGE IN BURUNDI IN COMING MONTHS. EMBASSY HAS NOW LEARNED THAT GRB CURRENTLY ESTIMATES THAT 500,000 PEOPLE (APPROXIMATELY 14 PERCENT OF POPULATION) WILL AIHXWW#FROM FOOD SHORTAGE BETWEEN OCTOBER 1974 AND JANUARY 1975 AND MADE FORTQ #

REQUEST FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE AT RECENT FAO/WFP CONFERENCE IN MAURITIUS. ALTHOUGH THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE FOR BURUNDI CONSIDERS THIS FIGURE HIGH AND LARGELY WITHOUT SUPPORTING EVIDENCE (HE CALLS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEM A "DEFICIT" RATHER THAN A "FAMINE"), HIS OFFICE

IS COOPERATING WITH THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN STUDYING BURUNDI'S NEEDS AND HOW THEY CAN BE MET.

2. PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS BASED ON GRB FIGURE IMPLY A MAXIMUM NEED FOR 24,000 TONS OF CEREALS OVER FOUR-MONTH PERIOD, WITH LESSER QUANTITY NECESSARY IF POWDERED MILK AND LOCAL MEAT AND VEGETABLES WERE AVAILABLE. GIVEN SIX TO SEVEN MONTH LEAD TIME NEEDED ON MOST SURFACE SHIPMENTS VIA DAR ES SALAAM AND KIGOMA, ANY EMERGENCY AID THIS AUTUMN WOULD REQUIRE ALTERNATE ROUTING, MOST PROBABLY INCLUDING AIR LIFT.

3. ACCORDING TO THE BURUNDI RADIO, THE FOOD PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED AUGUST 28 AT A MEETING OF ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BIGAYIMPUNZI ALSO PRESENT. GOVERNORS WERE INSTRUCTED TO REOPEN CLOSED MARKETS FOR NON-PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS; TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND MILITARY CAMPS; TO SUPERVISE TRADING IN FOODSTUFFS; AND IF POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH STOCKS TO BE USED IN LESS-FAVORED PROVINCES.
MARK

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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